

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02688 150606Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 TRSE-00 /090 W

----- 067027

R 150501Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4181

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2688

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR CH IN

SUBJ: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

REF: HONG KONG 2564

1. IN MARCH 14 CONVERSATION WITH US CONGENOFF (WHICH INTERALIA REVEALED PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL INDIANS HERE HAVE NOW GOTTEN TOGETHER), INDIAN COMMISSION FIRST SECRETARY CHANDRAN SAID LOCAL PRC CADRE IN WAKE OF NCNA MARCH 11 BLAST AT INDIA (REFTEL) ARE STILL HOLDING TO MODERATE CONCILIATORY LINE. CHANDRAN SAID INDIAN EXPRESS CORRESPONDENT B.K. TIWARI HAD CALLED MARCH 12 ON A RANKING PRC REP IN HONG KONG, NCNA DEPUTY DIRECTOR LI CHU-SHENG, TO ASK ABOUT MARCH 11 "CORRESPONDENT/ ARTICLE. CHANDRAN SAID TIWARI SUBSEQUENTLY HAD INFORMED HIM OF DETAILS.

2. LI TOLD TIWARI THAT HE SOULD "NOT MAKE TO MUCH" OF THE ARTICLE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL PRC STATEMENT, ADDING THAT "YOUR PRESS ABUSES CHINA, WHY CAN'T OUR PRESS ABUSE YOU AS WELL?" ASKED IF HE HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MARCH 11 ARTICLE, LI REPLIED IN NEGATIVE AND COMMENTED THAT THE PIECE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 HONG K 02688 150606Z

THAT OF ONLY A "JUNIOR CORRESPONDENT". LI SAID, HOWEVER, THAT

TIWARI SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF AN NCNA COMMENTARY CRITICAL OF INDIA SHOULD ALSO APPEAR. LI STRESSED TO TIWARI THAT CHINA'S POLICY WAS WELL ESTABLISHED: THE PRC SEEKS AND IS WORKING FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND DELHI SHOULD MAKE CORRESPONDING MOVES. LI HEDGED STATEMENT A BIT BY SAYING THAT THERE WERE LONG RUN AND SHORT RUN ASPECTS AND LATTER COULD INVOLVE CERTAIN COMPLICATIONS. TIWARI CAME AWAY WITH CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT LI HAD SOUGHT TO ASSURE HIM THAT PEKING HAD NOT REVERSED FIELD AND THAT INDIANS SHOULD SO UNDERSTAND. CHANDRAN SAID HE REPORTED ABOVE TO MEA BUT WAS NOT SURE WHAT CONCLUSIONS DELHI WOULD ARRIVE AT AFTER PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER.

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